

Philadelphia March 9. 1818.

Dear Brother & Sister —

Your letter of the 27th past was received in due time. It was highly gratifying to me to read so long a letter from you both. It is the first I have ever received from brother so I did not intend to have delayed writing you an answer so long; but if ever my time was completely occupied, it has been for the three or four weeks past. When I left Mass., I told you the lectures would continue until March — you may be surprised to return to A. England about this time, but Providence seems to be opening ~~the~~ a door for my stay in this city, a few months, at least. The opportunities for acquiring a knowledge of the profession of Medicine are far greater here, than in any other place with which I have any knowledge; & certainly I feel it to be an indispensable duty to pay considerable more attention to the study; & practice of the profession, before I can take upon myself the great responsibility which must lie upon every one who takes upon himself the charge of the lives & healths of his fellow men — But how much less must be the criminality of him who trifles with the safety of their bodies, than of him who trifles with their souls — How much less must be the criminality of an unfaithful & unskillful Physician, than that of an unfaithful & unskillful Minister of Christ. I tremble often in view of the high responsibility which I have taken upon myself to preach the Gospel of Christ to perishing sinners; & sometimes when called upon, feel myself altogether unqualified to direct others in the path of duty —

But there is a consolation to the faithful servant, of him who has been pleased to entrust his word in earthen vessels, that the power is of God; who is able to bless the weakest means, & make them

efftual to the conversion of sinners, & the edification of his own children - It is not by might, nor by power but by my spirit saith the Lord." If I derive any consolation from preaching, it is from this consideration - Let it be your prayer, that I may always be faithful to declare the whole counsel of God, & trust solely on him for a blessing.

The lectures which myself, & friend Richard came here to attend, closed last week - Our friends here were very desirous that we should still enjoy the instruction of the Professors which they were so good as to offer us so long as we would stay, & they have obtained for us a Mission in this city, & the vicinity, by which we are enabled to support ourselves, & yet pursue our studies without much interruption - Our Mission embraces, amongst other places, the State's prison; where there are about 300 criminals, a hardened set of wretches - The Alms House, where there are about 900 - a picture of misery, ignorance, & depravity - a small number of them ^{only} are able to attend regular preaching.

Amongst this class however there are a few precious souls - Those who are not able to attend preaching we visit at their bad side, & endeavour to convince them of their need of a Saviour, & point them to Christ as the way, the truth & the life! Our Mission is truly like a Mission to the Heathen - It is just such an one as I should have chosen, & I trust will be very profitable to us - We have also engaged to supply a society in the city with preaching a few months - Whether

I shall spend the whole of the summer here is yet uncertain - I have found here a number of very dear friends to whom I have become very much attached

There has been an increased seriousness in many of the churches in the city, tho' nothing very remarkable -

eminent servant, (Dear Dr. ~~W~~) himself. Your society had
lost a valuable member; & his surviving relatives a
friend indeed; whose example, conversation, & prayers, can
never be sufficiently estimated - But, as your loss, is his
gain - the Lord was pleased to call him to pass through
the furnace of affliction, but ^{what} this was only, that he
might purify him, & make the power of his grace more
conspicuous - I trust his memory will live in the hearts
of all the friends of God, who knew him - While he rests
from his labours, he still calls upon us to be followers
of him, as far as he was of Christ - I am happy to hear
that your weekly meeting is still continued - Be not
discouraged, tho' your numbers is small - Is not the
Lord on your side? Then take courage. What if those
who ought to be your leaders & instructors, refuse to stir you
your hands in this good work; you need not give up
hope.

Tho' the powers of earth, & hell, were leagued against
you, while the promises of God ^{you trust in them} stand, they cannot
hurt you - In due time - in the Lord's time, you
shall reap if you faint not - If sinners are not
immediately converted, yet your own souls will be ed-
ified & built up - I trust you will ^{not} forget to make
the case of sinners, who will not pray for themselves,
the brethren ^{of} your prayers - invite them to your
meeting - let them often to come - The revival of re-
ligion in Elizabeth, Town & Newark, N. Jersey, I believe is going

on, & is spreading into the neighboring towns. At Princeton Col-
lege there is a very pleasing work - Of the Mission
& the prospect of my going out, I can say nothing new.
You have read the Panoplist & Letters from our Mis-
sionaries. The Lord is with them, & will establish them
in spite of all opposition - probably at Madagassean Isl.
and - I have written this in great hurry - had only time
to task my pen at a late hour, & the watch is now calling
I believe for one o'clock - My best love to Parents, Brothers
& sisters. May this be considered as written to all - My re-
ports to all, beginning winter soon as I wish much to
hear from Mansboro - Is there a Post Office in Sher-
iff's Ferry? Will sister Lucy get a letter if I write her from ^{E. Wm.} New

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Mr. Solomon Weeks.

Marlborough

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